

In the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A cell-line which replicates hepatitis C virus (HCV), wherein said cell line is selected from the group consisting of a ~~non-human~~ non-monkey cell line, a non-chimpanzee cell line, a non-mosquito cell line and a human non-hepatic cell line.

2. (Original) The cell line of claim 1, wherein the human non-hepatic cell line comprises epithelial cells.

3. (Original) The cell line of claim 2, wherein the human epithelial cells are HeLa cells.

4. (Currently Amended) The cell line of claim 1, wherein the ~~non-human~~ non-monkey, non-chimpanzee, non-mosquito cell line comprises mouse cells of hepatic origin.

5. (Original) The cell line of claim 4, wherein the mouse cells are Hepa1-6 cells.

6. (Original) The cell line of claim 4, wherein the mouse cells are AML12 cells.

7. (Currently Amended) A non-human, non-chimpanzee, non-monkey, non-mosquito living host animal organism comprising cells which replicate HCV.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~non-human~~ living host animal organism of claim 7, which is a mouse.

9. (Original) A method for producing a human non-hepatic

cell that replicates HCV, comprising:

- a) obtaining total RNA from a human hepatic cell culture that replicates HCV, said total RNA comprising a selection marker which renders cells expressing said RNA resistant to a selection agent;
- b) introducing the total RNA into human non-hepatic cells; and
- c) selecting those cells which grow in the presence of said selection agent and replicate HCV.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein a cell line is generated from the cells of step c).

11. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a ~~non-human~~ non-primate, non-diptera hepatic cell that replicates HCV, comprising:

- a) obtaining total RNA from a human non-hepatic cell culture that replicates HCV, said total RNA comprising a selection marker which renders cells expressing said RNA resistant to a selection agent;
- b) introducing the total RNA into ~~non-human~~ non-primate, non-diptera cells; and
- c) selecting those cells which grow in the presence of said selection agent and replicate HCV.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein a cell line is generated from the cells of step c).

13. (Original) A method for screening test compounds which inhibit HCV replication, comprising:

- a) culturing the cell line of claim 1 in the presence and absence of a test compound; and

b) assaying HCV replication levels in the presence and absence of said test compound, wherein a reduced HCV replication level in the presence of said test compound is indicative that said test compound inhibits HCV replication.

14. (Original) An HCV polynucleotide having at least one of the mutations shown in Table 11.

15. (Original) A polyprotein encoded by the polynucleotide of claim 14.

16. (Original) A method for screening test compounds which modulate the antiviral response induced by interferon alpha (IFN- α) comprising

a) culturing the cell line of claim 1 in the presence and absence of a test compound;

b) contacting the cells of step a) with IFN- α ; and

c) measuring the HCV replication level in the presence and absence of said compound thereby identifying agents which modulate the antiviral response mediated by IFN- α as a function of altered HCV levels.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the antiviral response is enhanced.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the antiviral response is inhibited.

19. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein said cell is a mouse cell.